

PROGRESS REPORT MATIBI NOOK HUB

MARCH 2022 – AUGUST 2022



Report Written by :

Sheldon Siziba, Gilbert T Rupere, Nolawzi Ndlovu, Adnos Chikomo

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Table of Content

SUMMARY	3
THE PROJECT	3
PROJECT DEFY VISIT	5
1st CYCLE	6
EXPLORATION	6
GOAL SETTING	7
DESIGN WEEK	9
PROTOTYPING AND MILESTONES	10
EXHIBITION	10
GOAL ACHIEVEMENT REFLECTION	11
OUTCOMES AND DEVELOPMENTS OF 1st CYCLE	11
CORE CONFERENCE	11
PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAM	12
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	15
FINANCIAL REPORT	16
LEARNER STORIES	17
CHALLENGES	20
LEARNINGS	21
RECOMMENDATIONS	22
FUTURE PLANS	23

SUMMARY

This report gives an outline of the development of Matibi Nook Hub from the period covering March 2022 – August 2022. The report period under review precisely shows the flow of activities that have taken place, the process, financial update challenges, impacts to the learners and facilitators. The first cycle began with the mobilization of learners in Matibi Community which was done through a community sensitization outreach which outlined what the Nook Hub is all about including its goals, how it operates and its expected outcomes in Matibi community. Before the cycle began, we went through the exploration phase. After exploration came the 1st cycle, learners underwent the process of goal setting which had its own procedures. While the 1st cycle had just started, there was a CORE Conference hosted by Project Defy which one of our team members attended for 1 week in India. After the projects were done we then had our first ever exhibition where learners were showcasing what they had been working on for the past 3 months. The new PSS initiative was then held soon after the exhibition in collaboration with SWIZIMAID TRUST. To date 36 learners took part in the implementation of nook activities. This report seeks to outline activities conducted during the period under review.

THE PROJECT

In the pursuit to create a conducive, accessible and self-learning space, Matibi Nook Hub in partnership with Project Defy is implementing the nook concept in Mwenezi at Murawi Township targeting groups such as young mothers, girls, boys, out of school youths, disabled community and anyone who is interest in learning new skills. The context of the targeted community presents less people with a formal educational background. The nook offers an opportunity for everyone to learn new skills such as carpentry, baking, sewing, graphic designing, welding and various innovations that

learners would want to pursue. By reducing idleness amongst the youth, the project tackles issues such as early marriages, teenage pregnancies, drug and substance abuse amongst others. The motivation of the target group is to create self-employment, diversifying livelihoods to generate income through skills acquired and uplift the communities they are coming from, therefore complementing government efforts in empowering marginalized communities within Zimbabwe.

This entailed checking on the components of the project such finishing construction of the nook hub, competition of 1st Goal Cycle and conducting Psychosocial Support Training camp. International and local project partners and stakeholders were highly engaged in the project period under review. Major players include Project Defy, Mwenezi Rural District Council, civil society organizations and communities.

The project is on trail with all major project activities successfully executed.



Matibi Nook Hub before finishing construction



PROJECT DEFY VISIT

Project DEFY visited Matibi Nook Hub for the set up phase and also to officially start the 1st cycle. The team consisted of Answer Nzuma and Boicha Huidrom. This phase was there to take the learners through the process of coming up with projects, developing them and to execute. According to Project DEFY, the visit was meant to last 3 months, however, the team only managed to be on the ground for approximately 1 month. This made the process to be rushed and turned out to be overwhelming. It was discovered after they had left that some of the processes they have in place are not applicable in our context, for example learners going out to look for quotations for their projects. In our context there are no nearby shops where they can get the necessary materials.

Because of this and other reasons, it has been proposed that the cycle lasts for 6 months in order to cater for all these differences due to the nook location.



1st CYCLE

EXPLORATION



The main purpose of the fast-paced Exploration phase is to introduce new learning and skill areas to the learners. The facilitated sessions are designed to invoke curiosity and enable learners to pursue a broad range of new and exciting hands-on activities and projects every two to three days. Learners may be able to identify what they are interested in or like about a particular learning area and it will help them to set their learning goals also. Another aim of the Exploration is to enable our learners to make their own choice of learning and skills that they want to pursue without



worrying about society and family expectations carried by learners when they come to the Nook for the first time.

Based on the interests of the learners as well as on

creating exposure to new fields and enabling our learners to acquire some foundational skills and knowledge that will be useful for their projects, later on, the team facilitated the following sessions:

- Basics of Computers and Email
- Screen printing
- 3-D Designing using sketch up
- Graphic Designing
- Film making
- Electronics
- Carpentry
- Baking
- Welding

GOAL SETTING

MAY 4-8

After the high-paced hands-on exploration phase, it was time for learners to start taking ownership of their self-designed learning journey and make choices on what they liked to learn based on their needs, aspirations and curiosity. In this phase, learners decide on their learning goals and projects for the next three months.

Learners were given spaces to think and decide on their projects. Based on the concept of Ikigai, learners were first asked to identify three learning goals that fulfill the following criteria below:

- Things that they like to do
- Things that they are good at
- Things that can help in earning money or sustain them

We did speed dating as a fun way to make teams and create a collaborative environment based on similar interests and areas of learning. We encourage them to

work as a team with the spirit of helping each other and learning from each other. After making teams, each group came and presented their goal to the DEFY team and FFM team. This was a period of intense questioning, deliberations, research on the projects, and sharing ideas to refine and make the goals better. Learners also expressed their frustrations with the questions and shared that the questioning and deliberation made them think better and helped them to come up with new and innovative ideas. 36 learners in 14 teams set the following SMAART (*Specific, Measurable, Aspirational, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound*) Goals for the 1st Goal Cycle of the Matibi Nook Hub:

To bake 2 (two) 3 tier Layered Cakes (Mushroom and Stiletto Shoe Shapes) using locally sourced natural ingredients with Traditional Zimbabwean Flavors
To make a 3 Wheel Electric Rechargeable Bike with 1 seat which can run for 20 KMs with minimum speed of 30 km/hr
To make 1 organic hair shampoo to remove dandruff and 5 in1 organic hair gel (conditioner, oil, moisturizer, hair softener and hair strengthener) for black man and women's hair.
To make 1 cake with a village scene using local flavors as a way of celebrating our culture and way of living in Matibi
To make 5 school clothes for 6 year olds (1 dress, 1 trouser, 1 skirt, 2 shirts -1 long sleeved and 1 short sleeved) and to sell it after completion
To make 2 dresses which can be worn both in summer and winter and also one fashionable raincoat
To make 3 different fine dining dishes (1 starter, 1 main meal, 1 dessert) using local available ingredients
To design and make an illustration booklet focusing on 3 traditional minor games

To make 1 gown with a totem embroidered but also changes to 3 different styles on the top part and a African attire church dress which changes into Sequin party dress
To design, architect and make a miniature 3D model for the Matibi Nook hostel for 50 people
To make an online android educational traditional game called TSORO for kids aged 10-15 years which helps to improve strategic skills and allows learning arithmetic, calculations
To make 5 types of braids styles inspired by african culture and bonnets to protect the styles then make 1 minute videos on what we have made
To make a 20-minute documentary on the impact of early child marriages focusing on 5 mothers who are 20 years and below in ward 3 of Mwenezi District and the language used will be Shona with English subtitles
To make one expandable dining table with two folding chairs

After setting the goals, we started the 90 days countdown to achieve the goals set.

DESIGN WEEK

MAY 9

The purpose of the design phase is to help the learners understand their goals better by identifying problems that they are trying to solve, incorporating more ideas, finding the resources they need, designing, taking feedback and making prototypes. In the end, we also help them to come up with milestones to achieve their goals.

EMPATHIZE

MAY 10

We had a discussion and tried to understand the difference between sympathy and empathy. It was followed by identifying the problems learners are trying to solve and the target audience of their project. The learners talked to their target audience in the community to gather insights and learn more about the problems and how their projects solve or help the community.

IDEATION AND DESIGNING

MAY 11-12

After identifying the problems and gathering insights, learners came up with various solutions and ways to solve the problem. Some of them incorporated the ideas and made changes to their goal statements. Most of the learners stuck to their original ideas and goals, but it helped them to think further and understand the goals better. We asked the learners to make technical drawings and design their project/product on paper first and digitally using various software like Balsamiq, Sketch-up, and Adobe In-design.

PROTOTYPING AND MILESTONES

After ideation and designing, the learners were then given a chance to make smaller versions of their projects just to get a feel and idea of what the final product will look like. During this period, the learners also took time to set weekly milestones which would guide them in their learning process in their respective projects. While all this was happening, the team was also running around looking for quotations and places where to buy the materials. Normally the learners are the one who are supposed to go out and quotations for where to buy their materials but when it comes to Matibi context it is not applicable since there are no shops close by with tools and materials need for their projects, the closest shops where we can purchase materials that are required are in Masvingo 179km away, Harare approx 554km or Bulawayo approx 482km from Matibi Nook Hub.

Some of the materials required were purchased online from South Africa and China. This is one of the reasons why Matibi Nook Hub proposed that each cycle lasts for 6 months in order to accommodate and have ample time for all these processes and avoid interruptions.

3-months period

During the 3-months period learners went through a process of making their ideas a reality. After a long wait, some of the learners were no longer consistent in coming to the nook due to other commitments. This made it difficult for the team as it forced them to work long hours during the day and some working overnight to make sure their projects were completed on time. As a form of encouraging the learners, discussion forums were conducted, discussions were based on related issues which affect them outside of the nook and how the nook can assist them in improving their situations. As part of working hand in hand with other stakeholders in the community 6 learners were selected to participate in training courses which were offered by Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme (SIRP) although this made them to be behind on their projects. Community members commended the quality of learning that is happening at the nook and encouraged more young people who are idle to come in the 2nd cycle, the type of projects which were being done amazed the community as there were projects never seen around. There were negative comments from some part of the community to learners who were considered outcast as they were working on their projects, although this changed during the exhibition as they showcased and shared their learning experience.

Two weeks before exhibition, invitation letters were sent out to local stakeholders such as Mwenezi Rural District Council, NGOs working in our ward hence there are no industry-expects nearby. Invitation letters were also sent out to relevant stakeholders within Masvingo business community, Government Department and Harare business community. During this period, learners started practicing on how to

pitch their projects. They were also encouraged to share just the necessary information as a way to protect their original ideas.

EXHIBITION

On the 19th and 20th of August, we held our first ever exhibition at Matibi Nook Hub. On the first day there was a walk-in session and also an online session. During the exhibition, parents and stakeholders were given a chance to ask questions about the program and one of their biggest concerns was the issue of certificates. However they got to understand the whole concept and why the place does not issue certificates. On the first day there were 52 people at the nook for exhibition and 16 on the second day. The guests ranged from local leadership, government officials, community members and parents.

As a way of motivating learners some of the guest are interested in supporting and developing further the following projects and discussion are still being done to find ways of assisting them without moving from their communities:

- Graphic Designing
- 3D Modeling Architecture
- Android mobile Tsoro game
- Baking
- Tailoring

A total of 14 projects were exhibited though some were not completed. Some of the projects are also being carried over to 2nd cycle so that they can be improved and perfected.

One of the stakeholders was the Mwenezi Rural District Council. This team came with their students on attachment to experience, get a feel and see the products of self learning. This experience pushed them to ask for a discussion/debate with the Matibi learners in order to learn more and get insights.

GOAL ACHIEVEMENT REFLECTION

PROJECT GOALS	GOALS REFLECTION
<p>To bake 2 (two) 3 tier Layered Cakes (Mushroom and Stiletto Shoe Shapes) using locally sourced natural ingredients with Traditional Zimbabwean Flavors</p>	<p>This project was completed. As a result, a few people placed orders for their upcoming birthdays and these promises are yet to be fulfilled. The learners were excited about finishing on their project hence they are skeptical if they want to move forward with their project as they come from different villages which are far too apart.</p>
<p>To make a 3 Wheel Electric Rechargeable Bike with 1 seat which can run for 20 KMs with minimum speed of 30 km/hr</p>	<p>Though the project was exhibited, it was not complete. What was exhibited was a working version of the vehicle. This project was carried over to the next cycle for completion.</p>
<p>To make 1 organic hair shampoo to remove dandruff and 5 in1 organic hair gel (conditioner, oil, moisturizer, hair softener and hair strengthener) for black man and women's hair.</p>	<p>One 5 in1 organic hair gel was made and there was no success on the organic hair shampoo. The team will continue working on their projects in the 2nd cycle and we are still in discussion with institutions which wish to take them on board for skills development on chemical components. The spirit of the learners is still high and they are eagerly waiting to commence the 2nd cycle.</p>
<p>To make 1 cake with a village scene using local flavors as a way of celebrating our culture and way of living in Matibi</p>	<p>This project was completed. Learners were happy to have completed the project and wish to bake more indigenous flavored cakes for sale in the future.</p>
<p>To make 5 school clothes for 6 year olds (1 dress, 1 trouser, 1 skirt, 2 shirts -1 long sleeved and 1 short</p>	<p>This project was completed and through exhibition, few orders were made by parents who wanted school uniforms for their kids without worrying about</p>

sleeved) and to sell it after completion	traveling to Masvingo which is costly for them.
To make 2 dresses which can be worn both in summer and winter and also one fashionable raincoat	This project was not completed, yet to be completed in the 2nd cycle. Due to other commitments the learners failed to finish in time but as we commence 2nd cycle they will finish off their project.
To make 3 different fine dining dishes (1 starter, 1 main meal, 1 dessert) using local available ingredients	This project was completed. The group was advised by the Mwenezi Rural District council that they should feel welcome to set up their small selling point at Neshuro growth point which they would be very delighted to support as their offices are located there.
To design and make an illustration booklet focusing on 3 traditional minor games	This project was completed. The learner were approached by a group of women who are manufacturing and packaging detergents to design logos and branding supported by the Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme (SIRP).
To make 1 gown with a totem embroidered but also changes to 3 different styles on the top part and a African attire church dress which changes into Sequin party dress	This project was completed and a few orders were made by people who were interested in the gowns. The Member of Parliament representative pledged to assist them with sewing machines they can use whenever there is a need.
To design, architect and make a miniature 3D model for the Matibi Nook hostel for 50 people	This project was completed. Discussions are underway with the Mwenezi Rural District Council to find ways to assist in improving his skills.
To make an online android educational traditional game called TSORO for kids aged 10-15 years which helps to improve strategic skills and allows learning arithmetic, calculations	This project was not completed in 3months period due to internet interruption and delays in completing courses on programming and coding which are the essential skills needed. The team is dedicated to finishing off in the 2nd cycle.

<p>To make 5 types of braids styles inspired by african culture and bonnets to protect the styles then make 1 minute videos on what we have made</p>	<p>This project was completed. During the course of the cycle, one of the learners from Masogwe (which is about 50km from the nook) started sewing bonnets and selling them whenever she went home.</p>
<p>To make a 20-minute documentary on the impact of early child marriages focusing on 5 mothers who are 20 years and below in ward 3 of Mwenezi District and the language used will be Shona with English subtitles</p>	<p>This project was completed. Some of the stakeholders inquired if it was possible to have the team make documentaries about their office and the work they do.</p>
<p>To make one expandable dining table with two folding chairs</p>	<p>This project was not completed, due to commitments at home and hoping the project will be completed in the 2nd cycle.</p>

OUTCOMES AND DEVELOPMENTS OF 1st CYCLE

The first cycle projects yielded quite interesting results, the different skills acquired from projects pursued are already impacting lives in the community. Few learners have set up small businesses for themselves in the following areas of their skills:

- baking muffins and scones which has largely diversified her streams of incomes; this was after she received training from Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme(SIRP) in conjunction with IFAD in baking and confectionery, SIRP is on the organizations within Matibi ward in support families on various projects.



- Designing and Branding of detergent bottles and buckets which are being manufactured and packaged at Murawi Township by a small group of women who are being supported by SIRP.
- Hairdressing and sewing of head bonnet which they are now selling in and around Murawi Township.

One of the goals of the Nook is to empower its learners with skills that they can use to better their lives. Considering the economic background of the target community where the majority of households depend on rainfed agriculture and remittances from those in the diaspora particularly the neighboring country South Africa. The Nook therefore presents opportunities of financial independence which enables communities to thrive and meet their various social and economic needs. Similar pursuits can also be noted from other projects like wig making where learners had a lot of people approaching them as potential customers for their business.

As an organization, we are planning to start up a company that will oversee and monitor projects which are being done by learners while they get on their feet. This will also help when learners get opportunities which require paperwork and taxes. The main focus behind starting up a company is to assist the learners in a transitional move from operating as an individual to working in a group as it exposes them to better opportunities in return making sure what they get benefits and transform their families and community at large.

CORE CONFERENCE

Consortium Of Regenerative Educators is a conference organized by DEFY Team members where they invite all the team members and partners working on the Nook Project to discuss the way ahead and collectively design the future of learning and education through a grassroots movement, putting the needs of local communities first. The first edition of CORE was held from 6th June to 12th June 2022 in Dharamsala, India, therefore it was in the middle of the project implementation phase of the 1st cycle.

Sheldon participated in the CORE by representing Matibi Nook Hub and FFM Trust. He presented the work done by FFM and Matibi Nook Hub to the participants. He also facilitated a session as a panelist on the topic ‘Expectations from community and Realities on the ground’, with other participants from India and Rwanda moderated by our partner Christoph from the Chennai Nook. He also hosted a very fun ice-breaking session and team-building activities during the conference.

PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

The project was implemented in collaboration with Bulawayo Nook Hub. The vision of the project is to promote an enabling environment for communities and families in Bulawayo and Matibi to preserve, nurture and restore the psychosocial wellbeing of children and youths who are mostly the learners at the two nook centers. The idea of conducting Psychosocial Support camp counselors’ training came after realizing the challenge and the needs that are faced by learners attending the nook in both the organizations. Some of the learners attending nook sessions showed signs of psychosomatic problems which adversely affect their participation in such situations at both centers. A mini-survey was conducted to visit some families and this

prompted the need to conduct a PSS training for volunteers from the two organizations.



Therefore, SWIZIMAID TRUST together with FRIENDS FOR MATIBI implemented the Psychosocial support training camp to empower and equip camp counselors to provide Psychosocial support (PSS) to other learners covering all essential elements of positive human development that include emotional, social, mental, physical and spiritual needs. The trained pool of volunteers will work as camp counselors in the Psychosocial support (PSS) life skills training camps as well as run PSS programs in the areas where the two organizations are operating from.



A total of 23 participants were drawn from Bulawayo Nook Hub and 12 participants were drawn from Matibi Nook Hub to be part of the training which was facilitated by Cornelius Nyereyemhuka, Simbarashe Dube and Peace Gumbo from SWIZIMAID TRUST and Sheldon Siziba from FRIENDS FOR MATIBI.

The training camp covered topics such as:

- Introduction to Psychosocial Support
- Leadership & Communication
- Stress & Coping
- Psychosocial Care for OVCs
- Loss, Grief and Mourning
- HIV & Aids
- Kids Club Management
- Experiential Learning Methodologies



Through team building and high ropes activities the participants managed to learn various types of approaches to psychosocial support and identified different supporting mechanisms that can be used in their respective communities, for some of the Matibi Nook Hub participants it was their first time being outside of their community, it was a great opportunity for all of them to experience and networking with other young people from various backgrounds. In the next reporting cycle there are activities which are planned to give them an opportunity to give back to the community and also help their peers at the nook to overcome their problems .

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

There is a strong link between United Nations global goals or SDGs and the idea of self-learning which is the center stage of the nook concept. Good quality education is an essential tool for achieving a more sustainable world. The nook concept will achieve and be able to cover SDGs.



4 - Quality Education

8 - Decent work and Economic growth

10 - Reduce Inequalities

The goal for Nook concept is to focus on educational and new learning dimensions on sustainable development whilst creating solutions to common problems and making a difference in marginalized communities and having the potential for replication in a way that will be sustainable to the livelihoods of the communities.

FINANCIAL REPORT

	March	APR-JUNE	July - September	
Budget Lines				
International travel for DEFY India team	\$ 2,100.00	\$ -		\$ 2,100.00
DEFY Food and Local Travelling	\$ 300.00	\$ -		\$ 300.00
Stationery		\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Internet recharge		\$ 1,680.00	\$ 1,120.00	\$ 2,800.00
Water system maintenance	\$ 300.00	\$ 200.00		\$ 500.00
Local travel on duty	\$ 70.00	\$ -		\$ 70.00
Attendance at the DEFY conference	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 2,000.00
Program on psychosocial support			\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Solar power maintenance		\$ 675.00		\$ 675.00
Outreach and marketing		\$ 150.00		\$ 150.00
Per diem petty cash	\$ 150.00	\$ -		\$ 150.00
Fuel For Generator	\$ 84.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 248.00	\$ 632.00
Buffer/Miscellaneous		\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Gas Tank Refill	\$ 100.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 600.00
Caretaker 2x70	\$ 140.00	\$ 420.00	\$ 420.00	\$ 980.00
Volunteer Program Officer	\$ 100.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 700.00
Laptops repair and software upgrade	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Appliances and electricals		\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
Monthly workshop supplies	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,200.00		\$ 2,700.00
First aid kit restock		\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
Kitchen appliances, maintenance, repairs		\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Nook Food (learners and staff)	\$ 200.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,700.00
Nook Signboard		\$ 950.00		\$ 950.00
construction		\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 4,500.00
Window Security Bars, quotation		\$ 695.00	\$ 1,255.00	\$ 1,950.00
Battery backup			\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Tools and material			\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
TOTAL	\$ 5,044.00	\$ 12,470.00	\$ 11,243.00	\$ 28,757.00

In the financial period under review March 2022 - August 2022 we have seen price hikes of fuel from US\$ 1.30 to US\$ 1.75/ US\$ 2.00 that spiked prices of goods and services to go up. In the reporting period we had a budget of \$28,757 and to date we

have implemented activities costing upto \$ 23,676 with activities such as installation of window security bars , Psychosocial Support Program shifted to 2nd quarter.

34	EXPENDITURE OVERVIEW		
35	March	\$	3,141.10
36	April	\$	6,872.60
37	May	\$	6,175.10
38	June	\$	1,737.38
39	July	\$	2,658.39
40	August	\$	3,090.73
41	Total	\$	23,675.30

It is worth mentioning that due to unstable pricing of goods and services in the country we have started rearing local chicken to complement the feeding of learners using the nook food budget line, learners are expected to work on the project and there will be monitored with the assistance of the agritex officer under the Sustainable Livelihood project. The internet package which we have been subscribing to since March 2022 was low and slow hence the need to upgrade to a better package was invertible which meant extra \$ 40.00 charge will be covered under Buffer/Miscellaneous budget line till the end of the financial year.

LEARNER STORIES



Devine Chidochashe Moyo

My name is Devine and I'm a girl aged 23. I was born in a small mining town called Zvishavane. I have 2 siblings and I'm the first born. I finished my primary and secondary education. However, I could not proceed to university because of family problems and

financial issues. I had to stay home and help my mother with home chores since I had nothing to do. Later in 2009, I decided to go to South Africa. I stayed there for 1 year while working as a hairdresser. My mother got sick and I had to return home to take care of her. One day I went to church around the Matibi area and that is where I heard some youths discussing a place called Matibi Nook Hub. What I heard was that at this place people get to learn different skills based on personal interests and you learn by doing a project. I decided to join and do a project since home was boring and I could not go to university. Though I was late, I was allowed to join the group which was already there. I didn't get a chance to have my own project, however I was involved in many of the projects while I was exploring, looking for something which I might like. I have decided to learn about baking when the 2nd cycle starts. With the time I have spent here so far, I have learnt a lot and I can't wait for the cycle to begin so that I can have a project I'm responsible for. My goal for the next cycle is to learn and have experience in baking so that I will be able to bake high quality cakes and therefore make a living for myself and my family.

Dorcas Sabina Mseva

This is how I was raised, so empty inside, so poor from outside, future not promised. Dont judge me, my childhood was tough. I celebrate little achievements. I know how to cry, I know the pain of not having. I have felt the wrath of comparison. Growing up in a poverty stricken home is not easy. Some



of you have it easy out there but for me it was a mission. My name is Dorcas and I'm a girl aged 19. I come from Mutanda Village in Mberengwa. They say life is fair because it's unfair to us all. I am from a polygamous family and my mother is the

second wife. My father is disabled. I have 3 little siblings and 2 older ones. I did my ordinary levels in 2019 but things didn't go as planned. Regardless of the situation, I forced myself to do A level in 2020. Unfortunately, I couldn't finish my A level due to health problems, Covid-19 and financial challenges. I heard about the nook in 2022 and I decided to join so that I can become a graphic designer. So far what I have learnt and benefited is more than I expected and I can't thank the Matibi Nook Hub enough. I really appreciate what they are doing and I will always be grateful. I can't wait to come back again for 2nd cycle and learn more

I will let my little light of self learning shine. I will let it shine shine shine and shine.

Shine in Murawi, shine in Mwenezi, shine in Masvingo, shine in Zimbabwe, shine in Africa!

I will climb higher and higher until I can't climb anymore, that is when I'm dead.



Obey Kure

My name is Obey Kure. I was born in 1994 at Matibi Mission Hospital. I grew up in Kure village, where I am staying with my family. I finished high school in 2015. In 2016, I worked as a member of the National Aids Council up to 2018. I was also selected as a District Facilitator to represent Mwenezi at a provincial

and national level for about 4 years. I left this organization in 2019 because I wanted to proceed with my education. I studied for a diploma in education at Masvingo Teachers College from 2019-2022. I passed very well.

One day I went to Murawi Township and heard some people discussing a place called Matibi Nook Hub. I visited the place and I saw people doing different things and I loved it. I was directed to Gilbert by other people who were busy making things. He explained to me about Matibi Nook Hub and how things are done there. What got my attention was that people at Matibi Nook Hub learnt on their own, which is self learning, and also that resources and material are provided without paying any fee. In my first month at Matibi Nook Hub, I managed to learn about welding, carpentry, graphic designing just to mention a few. I then decided that for my 3 months project I'm going to pursue graphic designing. During my 3 months, my goal was to make a booklet focusing on 3 traditional minor games using software corel draw and adobe as a way of preserving our culture.

Now that I have finished my 3 months, I am now able to design posters, invitation cards, flyers etc for people in Kure village and Mwenezi at large. I always laugh at myself because when I started, all I wanted to do was to learn how to make logos but now I have these many skills at the tip of my fingers.

CHALLENGES

The Nook came and showed us that challenges are just a way for us to learn new ways of solving problems. Below are some of the challenges we faced:

1. As the Nook is located in a remote area, it is very hard for the learners and team members to get the materials needed for the projects and that delays timelines.
2. As most of the villages are isolated and have dispersed housing, many learners have to walk more than 15 km daily just to come to the Nook Hub. Lack of transportation worsened the situation hence we are still in the process of making plans for building a nook hostel.

3. Due to a lack of accommodation facilities or rented houses in the community, learners from far places could not shift near the Nook Hub and it still is a challenge for most of them to dedicate more time to their projects.
4. Transportation of tools and material for the nook has been a major challenge as it costs much to do errands for the nook.
5. Some of the learners have to carry the burden of finding money so that they can pay for accommodation at the nearby shops

LEARNINGS

1. Price changes - Due to the unstable pricing system and high inflation in Zimbabwe we have learnt that our budget should be reviewed every half year.
2. Contextualization of the program - during the cycle we noticed some learners were struggling to finish up their project as a result that to them some of the projects done do not have direct impact to their immediate community
3. Time-frame issues - the time frame which is set aside to work on the project is limited and makes it difficult to put together materials needed for the learners due to the geological location of the nook which is located far away from the suppliers and learners end up having limited time to finish up their projects.
4. Stakeholder involvement - during the period under review we noticed that stakeholders involved were not as proactive as anticipated hence the need to have more stakeholders on board as this will help the project and the learners to be more exposed. During the exhibition there were ongoing discussions with relevant stakeholders who are willing to further expand skills of learners in various learning areas.
5. Motivation - Community members are now being motivated to join the nook by the projects which they see being done by other learners.

6. Gender disparity - Over the period of time since the nook opened its doors to the community we have seen a high number of girls and young mother's participating compared to the young boys and men.
7. Staff Development - staff development and exchange program are some of the activities which made the nook fellows to be able successfully execute their work in the period under review hence there is need for more of staff development and exchange programs with other local and international organization which are being supported by LB Foundation as to help the growth of Friends For Matibi and all its projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Budget reviews to be done after every 6 months to avoid strains and shocks caused by inflation.
- Goal cycle to extend from 3 months to 6 months.
- With the Nook Concept being implemented there is also a need to have activities that will cover the elements of psychosocial support as to have a holistic approach in helping each and every learner and overcome various challenges that they face.
- Transport challenges that the nook is facing due the remote area where it is located. There is a need to have a project vehicle to ease the pressure.
- As much as the nook was initially made for anyone who can walk into the space everyday, we have received good reception and interest from neighboring villages and townships which are not so close to the nook, hence the need for accommodation for these learners. Instead of stuff housing, there can be a hostel to accomodate learners who come from far and also the FFM staff

- Participating in exchange programs, conferences, seminars or seconding staff to work with organizations doing similar activities as Friends For Matibi.

FUTURE PLANS

- Matibi Nook Hub is expected to start its 2nd goal cycle in October 2022 to December 2022 and we are looking forward to seeing what the learners come up with.
- We will hold Monthly Nook Health Monitor conversations to help us check on the Nook's status and growth trajectory.
- Matibi Nook Hub is expected to host an exhibition week that will mark the end of the 2st goal cycle in December
- Outreach event to mobilize for the 2nd goal cycle expected to commence in August 2022.
- To commence psychosocial support program in September (forming of support groups, kids clubs, youth discussion forum, community dialogue session, OVCs Camp and Trainings)

In conclusion, we would like to thank the LB Foundation support which is making the Matibi Nook Hub implementation of projects a success.



Join us for this educational revolution the Matibi Nook Hub is about to show the community.

Facebook: Matibi Nook Hub

Instagram: @matibinookhub

Email: sheldon.siziba@matibi.ch (Nook Hub Manager)

gilbert.rupere@matibi.ch (Innovations Lead)

adnos.chikomo@matibi.ch (FFM Projects Coordinator)